

IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A modular locking system for installation with and for preventing a child's access to a plurality of cabinets, cupboards or drawers, said locking system comprising:

a plurality of locking mechanisms, each said locking mechanism actuable to unlock a cabinet, cupboard or drawer,

an input for providing ~~a~~an electrical power source to said locking mechanisms for electrically energizing said locking mechanisms,

a plurality of switches, each switch electrically coupled between said power source and a corresponding ~~said~~ locking mechanism to, in an open position, electrically isolate said corresponding locking mechanism from said power source and, in a closed position, electrically connect said corresponding locking mechanism to said power source to energize said corresponding locking mechanism, said switches being dimensioned and configured to be at least partially concealed from a child when installed in a cabinet, cupboard or drawer, and

a remote actuator capable of individually signaling said switches one switch at a time, whereby bringing said actuator in signal proximity to one of said plurality of switches causes said one switch to ~~actuate~~ close thereby energizing a corresponding said locking mechanism by said power source and unlocking one of said cabinet, cupboard or drawer, and

each said locking mechanism including an override connection to which an electrical jumper may be selectively connected to electrically connect ~~bypass said plurality of switches thereby connecting each said plurality of locking mechanism mechanisms~~ directly to said power source thereby energizing each said locking mechanism to unlock said plurality of cabinets, cupboards or drawers.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The modular locking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each switch is a reed switch and said actuator is a magnet.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The modular locking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of locking mechanisms returns to a locked position when said actuator is outside of said signal proximity to said one switch.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The modular locking system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an override switch which is configured to be connected to said override connection of said locking mechanisms, and when actuated electrically connects ~~each~~ said plurality of locking mechanism-mechanisms to said power source thereby energizing each said locking mechanism and unlocking said plurality of cabinets, cupboards or drawers.

8. (Currently Amended) The modular locking system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said override switch when actuated electrically connects each said locking mechanism to said power source for a predetermined period.

9. (Currently Amended) The modular locking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said locking mechanism includes a solenoid which activates a latch

bolt which engages a striker within a stationary portion of said cabinet, cupboard or drawer.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The modular locking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said remote actuator is in signal proximity to said one switch when said remote actuator is placed adjacent said cabinet, cupboard or drawer.

12. (New) The modular locking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said locking mechanism has a plurality of connections, each said connection adapted to receive any one of:

(i) an electrical jumper for electrically connecting one said locking mechanism to another said locking mechanism,

(ii) an electrical jumper for electrically connecting one said locking mechanism to said power source, and

(iii) an electrical jumper to electrically connect said plurality of locking mechanism to said power source thereby energizing each said locking mechanism to unlock said plurality of cabinets, cupboards or drawers,

said override connection being any one of said plurality of connections.

13. (New) The modular system as claimed in claim 12, wherein each said locking mechanism has three said connections.

14. (New) The modular system as claimed in claim 12, wherein each said locking mechanism includes a lock body, and at least one said connection is covered by a break out portion of the lock body, and the break out portion is removable to expose a corresponding said connection.